



Friday  
December 14,  
2007

Vol. II, No. 30

***In This Issue:***

***DOE honors  
school teachers  
pg. 2***

***ASCC  
President  
pg. 2***

***LBJ Mammo-  
graphy Unit  
Recertified  
pg. 3***

***YWA hosts 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Initiative &  
Brainstorming  
meeting  
pg. 4***

***Gov. Togiola  
supports  
fishing  
Co-op.  
pg. 5***

***Port Admin.  
Draws down  
\$500K for  
Control Tower  
pg. 5***

***ASCC honors  
faculty & staff  
with 20 yrs. of  
Service  
pg. 6***

***Hist. Notes &  
more...***

## **ASCC/BHE Accepts President's Resignation**

*By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer*

The Board of Higher Education (BHE) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) announced this week that it has accepted notice of intent to resign from the institution's President, Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i. "Dr. Satele Galea'i met with the Board this past Monday," said Chairman Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi, "and she gave a very moving account of her time spent as President of the College, and also explained the details of her current medical condition. The Board feels the utmost sympathy for Dr. Satele-Galea'i, and we wish her the best in facing her current

challenges. Although she tried her best to maintain her role of President during her illness, she can now concentrate fully on her healing process, while the College can move ahead at full capacity, so her decision to step down as President works out best for all concerned."

Dr. Tagoilelagi also confirmed that current Acting President Dr. Seth Galea'i will assume the role of ASCC President on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008. "Dr. Galea'i has done an exemplary job of keeping the College on course during the President's extended leave," said Dr. Tagoilelagi. "ASCC also has two accreditation visits next year from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, one specifically for our new four-year Teacher Education program, and another for the College as a whole. Dr. Galea'i has taken a strong leadership role in the preparation for these accreditation visits, so the Board considers it crucial that he continue leading ASCC as we work through the accreditation process."

Currently on island for a brief visit between medical treatments in California, Dr. Satele-Galea'i took the opportunity to set things in order for the transition of the ASCC Presidency. After meeting with the BHE this past Monday, the next day she gave a farewell address before the ASCC faculty and staff. Despite months of chemotherapy, the President appeared in upbeat spirits as she delivered what she good-naturedly referred to as her "Last Lecture". As Dr. Satele-Galea'i conveyed what she considers her most important lessons learned during her tenure as ASCC President and from her current battle with cancer, her address encompassed wisdom from Samoan proverbs, timeless advice on the nature of students, and even tips for maintaining good health.

Dr. Satele-Galea'i shared the concept of the "Gifts of Life", taken from a book written by a man severely injured in a car accident. "When you come close to losing everything you have, as the author of this work did," explained the President, "you only have left the Gifts of Life, which I would consider dreams, family, friends, giving, gratitude, laughter, learning, financial stability, problems because they make you stronger, work because it gives value to your abilities, perfect days, and the ultimate gift of love and service to others." (Continued on page 2)



*ASCC President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i, who announced her intention to resign for health reasons earlier this week, gives her farewell address before the College's faculty and staff at an assembly this past Tuesday.*

*(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)*

***For additional  
news,  
information  
and much,  
much more  
about your  
government,  
visit the  
ASG Website  
at  
[http://www.  
americansamoa.  
gov](http://www.americansamoa.gov)***

## DOE honors deserving public school teachers

For having maintained and upheld the standards expected of local educators, the Department of Education honored its teachers of the year for school year 2007-2008 during a special banquet held at the Country Club in Iliili last Friday evening.

Over two dozen local public school teachers employed in different divisions of the DOE from Early Childhood Education (ECE) and elementary to junior high, and the high school level were recognized and honored for their accomplishments.

The teachers, who were selected by their respective schools to receive the honor of "Teacher of the Year," were awarded \$200 each.

In addition, recognition was also extended to the six winners of the district level who each received \$300 cash.

Winner of the coveted Territorial Teacher of the Year award went to English teacher Patricia Tuimalealiifano Fuiava of Manu'a High School, who made history in becoming the first ever teacher from the Manu'a Islands to win the award.

For her outstanding service, Fuiava received - in addition to her award - \$500 cash, a trophy and certificate.

Special guest Rep. Mary Lauagaia M. Taufetee of the Itua Malosi District who chairs the House Education Committee congratulated all the winners and extended her gratitude to all the teachers for their hard work in the classroom everyday.

In her remarks, Director of Education Dr. Claire Poumele explained that the announcement of the Teacher of the Year was made earlier this year than in prior years so that the territorial winner will be able to attend other functions hosted at the national level.

According to Poumele, this is the first year that she has not heard of any complaints regarding the selection.

Congratulations to all the winning teachers, especially Territorial Teacher of the Year Patricia Tuimalealiifano Fuiava. Hats off to all the hard working teachers of Tutuila, Manu'a, and Aunu'u!

## ASCC President Resigns *(from page 1)*

She ended by presenting Dr. Seth Galea'i with several gifts she herself had received when she began her tenure as President, as a symbolic means of "passing the torch" and wishing him well as he leads the College in the near future.

"I have been away from the job for most of 2007 on extended medical leave," explained the ASCC President. "I had hoped that my treatment would progress at a rate that would allow me to return to work before too much time had passed, but my progress has not come as fast as I had hoped. Therefore, in the interest of enabling the College to continue moving ahead, I have decided to make way for fresh leadership at ASCC. I will sincerely miss all of my faculty and staff, but I know the College will remain in good hands, and I look back with the utmost pride on what we have accomplished in recent years." Dr. Satele-Galea'i will return this weekend to her current home in California, where she will continue receiving treatment for a rare form of cancer which doctors diagnosed earlier this year.



*ASCC faculty and staff of ASCC gather around President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i, who announced her intention to resign for health reasons earlier this week for health reasons. Dr. Satele Galea'i gave her farewell address at the College this past Tuesday.*

*(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)*

## ASG RADIO PROGRAM

*With:*  
**Gov. Togiola  
Tulafono**

*On:*  
**Showers of Blessings  
FM 104.7**

**Saturdays @ 7a.m.**

**Call 699-8123/8124**



## Recertification of LBJ Mammography Unit set to begin Jan. 3

The accreditation process for the Mammography Unit of the LBJ Medical Center is underway and according to Niutoa Puletasi, a team of five from the American College of Radiology (ACR) will arrive in the territory on January 3, 2008 to begin the recertification process.

ACR is the certifying agency of diagnostic imaging units across the United States, including American Samoa.

The LBJ's Mammography Program has been suspended since August 2007 due to deficiencies identified from the image reports submitted to the ACR.

LBJ Hospital's CEO Patricia Tindall has confirmed this to be true, but added that the suspension is only temporary. "American Samoa needs this service and we will not deter from attaining our goal which is the full accreditation for our Mammo Unit," Tindall stated through a statement from the hospital.

Niutoa wrote, "The process is in place to allow LBJ to resume its mammography program under specific conditions. ACR will work with Diagnostic Imaging Manager Toafala Iafeta and the staff through this process to help them deal with improving image quality so that accreditation can be achieved."

Iafeta said that the main difficulty with American Samoa's Mammo Program is the physical size of the local clients. "Our people are traditionally taller and heavier than average American women," Iafeta said. "This size discrepancy causes a positioning problem and can affect image quality."

According to Niutoa, the LBJ Hospital was required to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to ACR for approval and LBJ's CAP was submitted last October by Dr. DeJournett, LBJ's director of the mammography program who resides in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The CAP includes specific positioning techniques to improve image quality. Thus, LBJ is recognizing the specific genetic makeup of the population of local women and providing a program to deal with the societal issues.

Niutoa explained that the local Mammography Program will be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and federally compliant.

"Training for the mammo staff is also a requirement and plans to provide on-site training by an outside x-ray expert authorized by ACR and FDA is in the plan for January 2008," Niutoa said.

Upon successful completion of the on-site survey and follow-up corrective action, LBJ will be allowed to reinstate the program by initiating an application for accreditation and submitting the appropriate fees to ACR.

A full application will be sent to LBJ with appropriate testing materials to be completed and returned to ACR.

Niutoa said that "When the entire process is completed, ACR will reinstate LBJ's Mammo Unit. Full accreditation is expected by early February 2008."

According to Niutoa, the group traveling to the territory will include two radiologists, two physicists, and two mammography technologists accompanied by Dr. Richard DeJournett.

While here, the team will review LBJ's progress and provide on-site training in areas where LBJ mammography staff need help.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On December 6, 1899**, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila wrote a letter to Mauga Moimoi of Pago Pago, informing him of the partition of the Samoan islands between Germany and the United States. He asked that this news be disseminated, and that the chiefs continue to maintain good order, promising that their authority, "when properly exercised, will be upheld."

**On December 6, 1900**, William Blacklock was issued a license to sell liquor in the bar of his newly-constructed Oceanic Hotel in Tutuila. The license was signed, in Commandant Benjamin Tilley's absence, by his executive officer, Lieutenant Commander E.J. Dorn.

**On December 7, 1899**, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley left Pago Pago for Auckland, New Zealand to acquire materials for the construction of a wharf and buildings at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

**On December 7, 1941**, a Japanese fast carrier task force (*Kito Butai*) attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, causing severe damage. In American Samoa, "word of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the order to 'war alert' status were received at Tutuila by the Staff Duty Officer, Chief Pay Clerk W.J. Sherry, USMC, at 10:00, December 7, 1941. Immediately a base-wide alert was sounded, with men ordered to remain at battle stations. Liberty would be rotated among the marines at the rate of four hours every fourth day. This level of readiness was maintained until January 23 [1942] and the arrival of the 2nd Marine Brigade."

**On December 7, 1941**, "When the Samoans heard that the United States was at war they came in from all sections of the island armed with bush knives (*Machettes [sic]*), volunteering to do anything necessary for the defense of Tutuila. There was no longer any time to worry about expense or approval in construction. Time became the valuable factor and the race against the Japanese was of prime importance."

**On December 7, 1991**, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, Hurricane "Val" caused widespread devastation throughout the Samoan Islands.

**On December 11, 1787**, twelve members of Jean-François de La Pérouse's crew (including First Officer Paul-Antoine Fleuriot de Langle and 39 Samoans) were killed by angry Samoans at A'asu Bay, Tutuila, thereafter known as "Massacre Bay," which La Pérouse described as "this den, more fearful from its treacherous situation and the cruelty of its inhabitants than the lair of a lion or a tiger." This incident gave Samoa a reputation for savagery, and kept Europeans away until the arrival of the first Christian missionaries four decades later.

**On December 12, 1787**, at A'asu Bay, Tutuila, French explorer Jean-François de La Pérouse ordered his gunners to fire one cannonball in the midst of the attackers who had killed twelve of his men the day before, and were now returning to launch another attack. He later wrote in his journal "I could have destroyed or sunk a hundred canoes, with more than 500 people in them: but I was afraid of striking the wrong victims; the call of my conscience saved their lives."

## YWA hosts second monthly initiative and brainstorming meeting

The Office of Youth and Women's Affairs and its director Leiataua Leuga Turner hosted the second monthly "Women and Youth Initiative and Brainstorming Meeting" on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, in the DOC conference room at the EOB in Utulei.

The gathering saw the presence of local women representing different walks of life from nurses and homemakers to retirees and school teachers.

Discussions centered around different ways to revitalize and bring back to life the traditional practices of weaving, sewing, producing handicrafts using natural resources, cooking with the use of traditional Samoan food, and re-planting indigenous trees.

Those in attendance included Sive Liufau, Fesala'i Tuitele, Tofiga Tuitele, To'aono Kelemete, Doreen Amituana'i, Maelega Amani, Rosita Lusi, Salome Soa, Fagalama Fuala'au, and Etenauga Lutu.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss initiatives and brainstorm on ways to go back to the good ol' days by revitalizing the traditional ways of living as opposed to spending money on more modern things.

"If we learned how to sew our own clothes, we would save a lot of money," Leiataua stressed during the first meeting. She said that if Samoans, particularly women, learned how to sew and cook traditional food items, there would be no need to spend any money.

In the old days, not a lot of money was spent by locals because the majority of Samoan people used to plant and grow their own food instead of buying it.

Basically, the message is simple: Surviving off of our natural resources and learning how to sew, cook, and weave using traditional Samoan methods will save a lot of money, which is a big deal in today's society.

One example includes the purchasing of beach mats from the local stores when in fact, mats can be woven using dried up tree leaves that are easily accessible to everyone on island, free of charge.

The same thing applies to accessories like artificial flower earpieces (sei) and bracelets (taulima).

Now-a-days, a lot of money is spent on groceries and eating out. The more modern families are opting to buy fast food, eat out at restaurants, and buy hundreds of dollars worth of groceries a month.

But traditional Samoan food, which some argue is also the healthiest way to go, can be served up at little or no cost to feed the whole family.

Some of the more popular Samoan delicacies include *fa'ausi*, *pisua*, *sofe sofe*, *fai'ai*, and *ufi* – all of which are easy to make and cost nothing to produce.

But even the traditional foods are now being prepared the more modern way. Take for instance the *pisua* which was traditionally prepared using the *masoa* but has since been substituted with tapioca bought from local stores.

This is part of the reason why Leiataua is encouraging the planting of things like *u'a* and *masoa* both locally and in the Manu'a Islands.

Other plants and trees on the list include the *laufala*, *laupaogo*, and *lauie*, all of which Leiataua argues can contribute to a

booming business in today's market.

"There is a lot of money to be made off of our natural resources," Leiataua keeps repeating.

Anyone interested in attending the next monthly meeting can call the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs at 633-2835 or 633-2836.



YWA Director Leiataua Mrs. Leuga Turner, Mrs. Sive Liufau, Mrs. Fesala'i Tuitele, Mrs. Tofiga Tuitele, and Mrs. To'aono Kelemete. (Second row, l to r): Mrs. Doreen Amituana'i, Mrs. Maelega Amani, Mrs. Rosita Lusi, Mrs. Salome Soa, Mrs. Fagalama Fuala'au, Mrs. Etenauga Lutu, and YWA Administrative Assistant - Mrs. Ramona Toeaina and YWA Secretary - Ms. Saini Vele. (Back row, l to r): Sali Manaia, Isitolo Ieremia, Iulimasao Fetua'i, and YWA Deputy Director - Roy Ausage.

[photo: americansamoa.gov]

## Governor Togiola supports idea of establishing fishing co-op

Governor Togiola Tulafono strongly believes that because the territory has a high number of local fishermen, exporting fish to Hawaii is something that should be taken seriously as part of local economic development.

The comments were made during the Governor's weekend radio program.

In earlier remarks, Togiola made known the fact that a weekly charter flight to Niue picks up fish exported to Hawaii but nothing is exported from American Samoa or Samoa.

He said that ASG is working on a plan to develop local fisheries where the public can sell their catch to a cooperative, which in turn will export the fish or sell them to local businesses.

According to Togiola, if and when the canneries shut down operations in the territory, locals can still fish and sell their catch to a co-op similar to those in other countries around the world.

(Some local fishermen are known to sell part of their catch to the local canneries that only purchase certain kinds of fish, leaving the fishermen no choice but to sell the remainder of the catch to local stores).

Togiola said that local fishermen have expressed concern with the difficulty in finding places to sell their catch, as the market competition has become tough.

When a caller on his weekend radio program voiced a request to have the American Samoa Government set aside \$500,000 for a local program to establish an alia fishing fleet, Togiola replied that everyone has their own opinion about alias, which is popular but whose life span is questionable compared to other types of fishing vessels.

The caller suggested that funds for the proposed plan be overseen by the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS), while the American Samoa Community College provides classes that deal with fisheries.

Togiola explained that a similar fund to what the caller was proposing was established a few years ago for the purpose of building wooden fishing vessels but the program was unsuccessful because of safety concerns.

Nonetheless, the Governor said that he would look into the program again.

Togiola reported that a Korean based company is looking at establishing a local facility to build fishing vessels, with the goal of constructing affordable ones that will not only be sold locally - perhaps at discounted prices - but in other countries in the Pacific region as well.

## Department of Port Administration draws down \$500K for air traffic control tower

The Department of Port Administration has received a draw down of \$500,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration. The money is a portion of the \$1.9 million approved for the construction of an air traffic control tower at the Tafuna International Airport.

Less than two months ago, Governor Togiola Tulafono and FAA officials finalized and signed an OTA (other transaction authority) which would grant American Samoa nearly \$2 million in federal dollars to construct the tower.

Although the money was approved by Congress with the help of Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin two years ago, the FAA held the funds in trust until such a time when the Territory was able to present a feasible plan for its use.

The issue involving the air traffic control tower was highly debated in the Fono during hearings earlier this year which centered on concerns that air advisory services be provided by Faleolo Airport in Samoa, after the contract with a Washington DC firm who provided advisory services locally had expired.

Within two weeks of the hearings, Governor Togiola announced that he had met with FAA officials and together, they signed an OTA which would provide funding for a temporary tower.

(An OTA is a procurement practice that creates government/industry partnerships to negotiate agreements for prototype-building projects with non-traditional vendors).

Prior to the drawing down of funds, Port Administration had already been looking at ways to maximize the use of the funds.

Port Administration director Matagi Ray McMoore told the local media that he and his staff have been looking into the most suitable and feasible tower plans, considering the limited funding provided.

He explained that he traveled to Samoa to view the Faleolo tower and discovered that the structure is four stories high, as it sits on a hill that provides full view of the entire runway.

Matagi said that because Tafuna Airport sits on a flat plain, our tower would have to be much higher than the one at Faleolo. "Nothing has been finalized yet," Matagi told reporters.

One of the preliminary steps taken in the plans for the new air traffic control system includes the installation of a temporary beacon light on the water tower used by the Air Rescue and Fire attachment at the airport.

The beacon light will be used as a guide for approaching airplanes.



## ASCC Honors Four Faculty and Staff for 20 Years Service

*By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer*

The Human Resources Office (HRO) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) organized a celebratory luncheon last week in honor of four faculty and staff members who have reached their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the College. While honorees Dr. Kathleen Kolhoff-Belle, Ms. Regina Meredith, Mrs. Eseta Taotua, and her husband Mr. Fuifui Taotua all serve in very different capacities at ASCC, they have in common a dedication to their work that has seen them stay the course for “the long run”.

Dr. Kathleen Kolhoff-Belle received her B.S. degree in Education from Bowling Green State University, her M.A. in Theater Arts from the University of Cincinnati, and her Ph.D. from the Union Institute, all in her home state of Ohio. She began her career in education at the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, working at a college that served Native Americans. After 13 years at that institution, Dr. Kolhoff-Belle felt ready for a change and had always wanted to live on an island, so she started applying for jobs at schools in the Pacific. She got an offer from ASCC that she says, “I couldn’t refuse and have never regretted accepting.”

Initially signing-on as a Grant Writer with the College, over the years Dr. Kolhoff-Belle went on to teach Drama, Speech and English, and for a time served as Dean of Instruction. Today, she runs the ASCC Office of Institutional Advancement and Effectiveness. She cites her experience teaching Native Americans as the inspiration for her continuing in the field of education, as well as her working relationships with past ASCC presidents Dr. Saeu Scanlan and Dr. Adele Satele-Galea’i, as well as Namulauulu Dr. Paul Pouesi and fellow 20-year veteran Regina Meredith of the Fine Arts Department, and all of her colleagues currently working on the College’s Self-Study project.

Regina Meredith says that she originally intended to pursue a career as an artist rather than an educator. “As a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, when we learned about Old America for Social Studies, I drew a black and brown buffalo on a large olive green piece of paper. That drawing gave me a lot of satisfaction, and from that moment I knew what I wanted.” From that humble buffalo, Meredith went on to complete a B.A. in Art/Art Education from Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, PA, and later her M.F.A from San Diego State University. Meredith recalled how former ASCC President Dr. Saeu Scanlan asked her to join the ASCC faculty in 1987, and she has served as the College’s Art Instructor ever since, as well as Assistant Dean of Students and Co-Chairperson of the Fine Arts Department. She says, “I thank God for everything, and also my parents Atualevao Heinrich A ‘King Kong’ Meredith and Mary Pena Meredith, my sisters and brother, the ASCC administration and staff, and last but not least, my students.”

Mrs. Eseta Taotua, currently an instructor with the College’s Adult Education, Literacy & Extended Learning (AELEL) program, says she considers teaching “the noblest profession”, and her experiences in the field have taken her from classrooms in the Independent State of Samoa, to Lupelele Elementary School, and to ASCC. In addition to her regular duties with the College, Mrs. Taotua has also taught in the community at sites such as the canneries and church organizations, and in the Early Childhood Education program. She holds a Teaching Diploma from LDS Church School in Samoa, as well as a B.Ed. from the University of Hawaii. She says she would not have completed her studies in Hawaii without the firm support of her husband, Fuifui. “When I attended school off-island, he had to take the role of both father and mother with our children,” she explained. Mrs. Taotua also expressed her gratitude to the previous Director of the AELEL program, the late Mrs. Faauuga Achica, and to its current leader, Dr. Taitaifono Otineru.

Eseta’s husband and co-honoree Mr. Fuifui Taota currently serves as the College’s Supervisor of the Grounds & Landscaping. He earned a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture from the University of the South Pacific in Alafua, Samoa, as well as a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of the Philippines. Beginning at ASCC as an Extension Agent at Land Grant, Mr. Taotua later moved over to the main campus to take the position of Supervisor of Maintenance. Fuifui and Eseta wed in 1972 while still living in the Independent State of Samoa. Besides his duties at the College, Fuifui also serves as Bishop in the Pava’ia’i Second Ward of the LDS Church.

At the ceremony to honor the four 20-year veterans, ASCC HRO Director Komiti Panama-Emmsley reflected, “Any great organization has its roots in service, and service provides the nurturing force that fuels all growth.” Board of Higher Education chairman Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi and Acting President Dr. Seth Galea’i also joined the proceedings to congratulate the honorees and present them with their gifts. Panama-Emmsley says the HRO hopes to hold a recognition ceremony once a semester in honor of the College’s veterans of 20, 30 or even 40 years. “As long as we have the numbers,” she said, “we hope to make this an ongoing event.”



*ASCC honored four employees for 20 years of service at a luncheon last week at Deluxe Cafe. Front row (l-r): Honorees Fuifui Taotua, Eseta Taotua, Dr. Kathleen Kolhoff-Belle, and Regina Meredith. Second row (l-r): Ceremony hosts Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi, Komiti Panama-Emmsley, Dr. Taitaifono Otineru, Dr. Irene Helsham, and Dr. Seth Galea’i.*

*(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)*